

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is the sole independent claim now pending in the application. Claims 2-12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended herein.

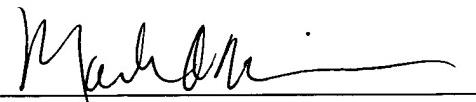
Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of Claims 6 and 7 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1, and Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled herein. Thus, Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claim 1 is seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance. In particular, it is Applicant's current intention to file a divisional application, to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark A. Williamson  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

MAW/agm

DC\_MAIN 227125v1